

"THE BACK PAGE"

By Bill Roberts

Each year, this writer returns from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Golf Course Conference and Show with a renewed commitment to our profession and the activities and opportunities of the recently concluded Washington, D.C. "event" were no less successful in providing that motivation. The seminar programs, the educational sessions, the USGA Green Section presentation, the Trade Show, the GCSAA Annual Meeting and the Annual Banquet in addition to the hundreds of other "happenings" that take place during Conference Week have proved, once again, that we are involved in one of the truly great professional opportunities.

Upon reflection, one can always be amazed by the new friendships established and the old friendships solidified during Conference Week. The willingness of fellow Golf Course Superintendents from all across the country to share experiences, knowledge, successes and failures with each other is both remarkable and gratifying and stands, by itself, as a primary reason for and a principal benefit of membership in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. If you are currently a member of GCSAA, these sentiments are not new to you. If you have not yet fulfilled your professional responsibility by joining and contributing to our "National" association, think about it. One can assure you that you are missing more than you can know.

The WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION was, once again, well represented at the International Golf Course Conference and Show. The City of Washington, D.C. was an added incentive in providing a fast-paced, informative and historical backdrop for attendees. Among those "Wisconsinites" taking advantage of the offerings were **DOUG DEVRIES, BOB ERDAHL, MONROE MILLER, RAY WOZNAK, ED DEVINGER, JOHN MORTIMER, DENNIS ROBINSON, JIM BELFIELD, WAYNE OTTO, DANNY QUAST, DEWEY LAAK, GARY MULVIHILL, STEVE SCHMIDT, MIKE SEMLER, JACK SODERBERG, STEVE BLENDALL, CHAD BALL, JERRY KERSHASKY, DALE PARSKE, BOB WELCH, JIM LATHAM, BRUCE and MARY WORZELLA, JEFF BOTTENSEK, TOM PARENT, ROGER and SUZANNE BELL, ROD and GINELLE JOHNSON, PAT and SUE NORTON, JOHN and JOYCE KRUTILLA, MARK and KAREN KIENERT, RAY and CAROL KNAPP, RANDY and JOANNE SMITH, RANDY and MARY WITT and DAVID and GLORIA MURGATROYD, TOM SCHWAB, BRAD WAGNER, PAT MERTZ, and MIKE HANDRICH.** Old friends seen and heard from included **DR. BILL DANIEL, DR. DON WHITE, DR. HARRY NIEMCZYK, DR. JOE VARGAS AND STAN ZONTEK.**



Speaking of **MONROE MILLER, DANNY QUAST** and **SUZANNE BELL** and educational opportunities, all three provided timely insights into "Using a Weather Consul-

tant," "In-House Nurseries" and "The Grass Is Always Greener...When Fertilized" respectively. "THE BACK PAGE PERSUASIVENESS IN PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD" for 1985 must go to **SUZANNE BELL** for convincing at least some of her audience that husband and North Shore Golf Club Superintendent **ROGER BELL** is a "saint." Congratulations **SUZANNE...and ROGER.**



Closer to home, **MIKE SEMLER**, Golf Course Superintendent at Fond du Lac's South Hills Club, has finished planning and is awaiting acceptable spring weather to begin implementing an extensive stream bank stabilization project. Establishment of proper slopes and the placement of rock will be utilized to offset the effects of erosion. **MIKE** will be planting approximately 130 trees on the South Hills tract this season, in addition to continuing with an on-going drainage project as needed.



GLENN MILLER, Golf Course Superintendent at Devil's Head Lodge, reports a successful ski season but is anxious to start a renovation project on his 18th hole including the use of railroad ties along lake banks, the addition of several greenside bunkers and massive tree planting. Glenn will also be implementing restoration efforts on a water line trench installed last fall. Of course, his on-going tree planting program will continue through 1985. All of this will be occurring early as **GLENN** hurries to completion before the usually heavy summer play he experiences at his popular facility.



Conversion of tees from Kentucky Bluegrass-Poa annua to Penncross Creeping Bentgrass is at the top of **ARMIN HONEYAGER'S** list for 1985. His **Waukesha Country Golf Course** will see regrading and re-grassing of its teeing surfaces continue this season. **ARMIN** has also been busy planning the conversion of his irrigation system from manual operation to automatic control in the future.



STEVE BLENDALL has been busy this winter in his role as a Director of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation. He has also been busy planning for the 1985 Wisconsin State Open. **STEVE** reports other projects "on line" for Brynwood Country Club this year include completion of a new tee project through the installation of drainage, irrigation and sod establishment, a pump station modernization program,

landscaping of the practice tee area and the construction of a new practice chipping green. He also notes his continued commitment to lightweight fairway mowing and the use of "walkers" for mowing greens.

Windy Acres Golf Club in Monroe, Wisconsin has "no earth shaking plans" according to Golf Course Superintendent **JIM KRIEGER.** **JIM** will be busy nonetheless with a lot of play, including golf leagues five nights a week.



RANDY WITT, Golf Course Superintendent at Oneida Golf and Riding Club in Green Bay will begin implementing a **BOB LOHMAN** master plan this spring that calls for, initially, the re-construction of the 13th and 14th holes (including re-routing). Future specifications call for tee and bunker work. **RANDY** reports excellent results from his lightweight fairway mowing program. He is removing clippings five to six days per week during the season and Oneida's members continue to be enthusiastic about playing from fairways mowed at 7/16 inches. Further, his 26 acres of fairway turf will be recontoured beginning in 1985. In addition to hosting several NEWGA events, **RANDY** will be sponsoring the Green Bay Packer Alumni Golf Outing, which last year included the 1967 World Championship Packer team.



BOB ERDAHL is looking forward to a "dry" spring in order to finish some construction work on 9 holes at North Shore Country Club in Mequon, Wisconsin. **BOB** indicated he found his GCSAA Conference trip to be a worthwhile investment.



We talked with GCSAA President and Wisconsin GCSA Honorary Member **GENE BASTON** recently and came away with a reinforced confidence that the "National" leadership is in good hands with this gentleman. **GENE** has and will continue to commit the tremendous amount of time required to guide our organization. He also elaborated on some specific goals for GCSAA in 1985 including a public relations program that can be easily implemented by the individual Golf Course Superintendent, renewed contact and communications with local Chapters, invigorating and renewing GCSAA's commitment to Scholarship and Research, continued commitment to the joint GCSAA-USGA fund raising efforts and continued inter-action with allied associations in golf. Our best to **GENE** throughout his tenure "at the helm" and we are confident his success will be insured.

Closing quickly, things are shaping well for 1985 on all fronts. Good luck to all and we're sure the coming season will prove even more rewarding than the past. **WE'LL BE IN TOUCH SO STAY NEAR THE PHONE!**